

Although the Office Action has identified separate classifications, making a *prima face* case of a serious burden, it is respectfully submitted that there is no serious burden in searching and examining the entire application.

Since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without significant additional effort. As patents and other publications often contain descriptions of both a method and a related apparatus, information as to both method and apparatus often can be found in the same publication. It is thus likely that patents and publications directed to a method will also include disclosure relating to the apparatus, thus facilitating the prior art search and the consideration of both types of claims.

More specifically, the PTO classification index found on the PTO web site suggests that a search of the two groups overlap. In particular, the sub-class definitions in Class 355 recite the following:

53 Step and repeat

Subject matter including means to reposition the photosensitive paper relative to the objective lens after each exposure for repeated copying of the same original on either different sheets of photosensitive paper or on different areas of a photosensitive sheet or film.

55 Focus or magnification control

Subject matter including means to move the holder for the original, the objective lens, and the photosensitive paper holder relative to each other for focusing or changing and degree of magnification or reduction; or including structure adapted to allow interchanging of objective lenses of different focal lengths.

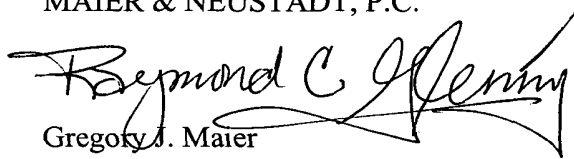
Both subclasses are indented directly under Sub-Class 18, suggesting the searches for the two sub-classes 53 and 55 should be closely intertwined. Moreover, nothing in either class definition suggests that a search of the other sub-class should be excluded: the two sub-classes are not mutually exclusive in any way.

Thus, there is little extra effort in searching and examining the method claims compared to searching and examining the apparatus claims, since the search areas overlap, even if the inventions of Groups I and II are posited as being distinct.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and all pending claims be examined at this time. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Raymond C. Glenny
Registration No. 32,413

Phone (703) 413-3000

Fax (703) 413-2220



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